

# **Estimating the Returns to Schooling: Evidence from Student Protests in 1970s Turkey**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we develop a new instrument from an unexpected decline in graduates and new admissions in post-secondary education from the student protests in the late 1970s and the military coup in 1980. Using the 2005 Turkish Household Labor Force Survey, our estimates suggest that the economic return to an additional year of schooling in Turkey ranges between 11.6-12.8 percent for men. Moreover, we find that the decline in educational attainment due to student protests shifted the affected population from high-income occupations toward low-income ones.